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PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

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3.5(c)

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DIST 25 AUGUST 1978

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA/CHILE

SUBJECT: CONCERN OF ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES THAT INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION OF ORLANDO LETELIER WILL LEAD TO INVESTIGATION OF 1974 ASSASSINATION IN ARGENTINA OF CHILEAN GENERAL CARLOS PRATS

3.3(b)(1)

1. THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES ARE CONCERNED THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF ORLANDO L E T E L I E R, FORMER CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, HAS UNCOVERED INFORMATION INDICATING COMPLICITY OF ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE 1974 ASSASSINATION IN BUENOS AIRES OF GENERAL CARLOS P R A T S, FORMER CHILEAN DEFENSE MINISTER. (CONDENT: ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1974 GENERAL PRATS AND HIS

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3.3(b)(1)

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Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06701432

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06701432

WIFE WERE KILLED WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED IN THEIR CAR. SPECULATION AS TO THE RESPONSIBILITY CENTERED ON CHILEAN RIGHT-WING TERRORISTS. CUBAN AND SOVIET JOURNALISTS IN ARGENTINA BLAMED A CHILEAN ASSASSINATION TEAM ACTING UNDER ORDERS FROM THE CHILEAN JUNTA.) SINCE JUNE 1978, ADMIRAL EMILIO M A S S E R A, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY, HAS RECEIVED AT LEAST FOUR REPORTS ON THE LETELIER INVESTIGATION. THESE REPORTS DISCUSS THE PROBABLE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION, HOW THE INVESTIGATION WILL AFFECT THE CURRENT CHILEAN REGIME, AND THE POSSIBLE SURFACING OF INFORMATION ON THE PRATS ASSASSINATION. (3.3(b)(1) COMMENT: IT IS NOT KNOWN WHO PREPARED THE REPORTS.)

3.3(b)(1) 2. MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO CONCEAL ANY ULTIMATE ARGENTINE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE PRATS CASE SINCE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTENDS TO RESURFACE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRATS, ALLEGING THAT ARGENTINES WHO WERE INVOLVED STILL OCCUPY IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

THE TOUGH ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGAINST CHILE AND ARGENTINA IS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INFLUENCE OF CERTAIN STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, AND THAT THE PRESSURE ON CHILE, PRIMARILY REGARDING THE PRATS, LETELIER AND LEIGHTON CASES, IS ULTIMATELY DESIGNED TO MODIFY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE IN CHILE. 3.3(b)(1)

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06701432

Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06701432

3.3(b)(1) 3. THE ARGENTINE DELEGATE TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) REQUESTED THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO INFORM HIM OF ANY STATEMENTS BY A U.S. PERSON ON THE LATTER'S OR ANY OTHER PERSON'S ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA ON BEHALF OF CHILE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL PRATS AND HIS WIFE. (COMMENT: USED THE TERM 3.3(b)(1) DELEGATE, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THIS IS A REFERENCE TO JULIO C A R A S A L E S, ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS.) 3.3(b)(1) WHILE IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE DELEGATE TRANSMITTED HIS REQUEST OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY, HIS REQUEST REFLECTED THE INTENTION OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF CHILEAN PARTICIPATION IN TERRORIST ACTS IN ARGENTINA.

4. 3.3(b)(1) WHEN FINISHED WITH ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE LETELIER CASE, THE UNITED STATES WOULD TRY TO CREATE A SCANDAL IN ARGENTINA OVER THE PRATS CASE. (COMMENT: GENERAL 3.3(b)(1) PRATS HAD BEEN PROMISED THE PROTECTION OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY. ALTHOUGH IN ALL PROBABILITY JOSE L O P E Z R E G A, SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY AND MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE LAST PERON ADMINISTRATION, AND HIS

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GROUP WERE RESPONSIBLE, ARMY ELEMENTS COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.)

3.3(b)(1) COMMENT: LOPEZ REGA, A CLOSE CONFIDENT OF PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA M A R T I N E Z D E P E R O N, WAS WIDELY SUSPECTED OF DIRECTING COUNTER-TERRORIST AND ASSASSINATION SQUADS.)

3.3(b)(1)

3.5(c)

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